

# GET UP OR GIVE UP



## - The First Word -

### Get Up or Give Up

It's difficult to put into words how truly inspiring our work with the Power To Make A Difference programme is. With every issue of MADE, we try our best to convey the incredible commitment and passion that drives the NGO's and Community Based Organisations that we support – but the text and photos do not always completely capture the breadth of their impact and the highs and lows of their journeys.

Here in T&T, heroes walk among us every day and it is such a privilege to meet and work with these men and women through the Power To Make a Difference Programme. Getting to know them, we have learned that it takes an almost herculean level of grit and commitment to push through the challenges they face in order to realise a dream. To them, failure is just a stepping stone on the path to success. You either Get Up or Give Up.

In this issue of MADE, we hope to inspire you to adopt that mantra – Get Up or Give Up. We share the stories of trailblazing local Olympian, Andrew Lewis, now using his own experiences to inspire and mentor others; and Selris James, a talented artist who has overcome significant challenges to host his own solo art show. We also highlight our projects for 2017 and reflect on the achievements of 2016. We hope that you are touched in some way by the work of the Power To Make a Difference programme and that you find some inspiration through the stories we share.

*Nadia*



Nadia Williams, Social Investment Officer

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# - Power To Make A Difference - 2016 -

## Milestones A Walk Through 2016

As we commit to another successful year in our Power To Make a Difference programme, we also celebrate the achievements of the last year.

### The Power to Care

- **Horses Helping Humans** - sponsored their 1st Family Day
- Continued sponsorship of the Annual Autism Awareness Walks in April hosted by the **Autistic Society of T&T**
- Continued sponsorship of the **TT Cancer Society** activities in October
- Partnered with **Transplant Links** to give 10 lifesaving surgeries to children in need. Transplant Links also conducted their first set of surgeries in Barbados in November 2016 with our support.



# - Power To Make A Difference - 2016 -



## The Power to Help

- Habitat For Humanity – ‘A House for Mr Manikram’ marked the 26th build in which RBL has participated
- United Way Day of Caring - 150 staffers helped paint the Vision on Mission Women's Transitional Centre in Claxton Bay marking the 3rd year we have participated in the National Day of Caring
- Culture - continued support for the Junior Parade of the Bands, Tassa Taal, Chowtaal Samelan, Tobago Heritage Festival and Baal Vikaas Vihaar in TT and the Annual Steelpan Competitions, Guyana.
- Youth Empowerment through continued support of the 2 Cents Movement nationwide school tour - over 2,000 children have viewed their performances so far

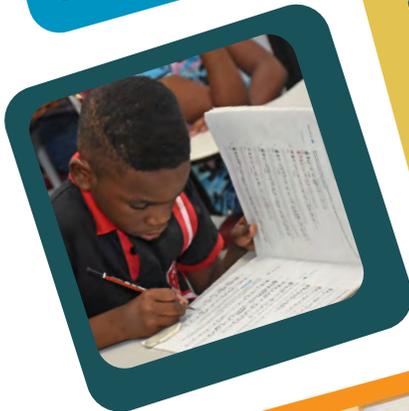


# - Power To Make A Difference - 2016 -



## The Power to Learn

- Free **Learn to Swim classes, Grenada** - over 500 participants
- 13 Grenadian students awarded monetary prizes as part of the Bank's ongoing **UWI Open Bank Bursary Programme** at the Grenada campus
- **Academic Prizes** for Guyana's top performers in the CSEC and CAPE exams
- Literacy projects continued in Trinidad with the Bank's sponsorship of the **YMCA Reading Week** which takes place within at-risk communities and the 2nd year of the **RBL Literacy Caravan** which donated over \$100k to 20 primary schools
- 2016 marked 8 years of sponsorship with the **Dyslexia Association of TT** - we sponsored a seminar for teachers to mark our continued commitment
- Sponsored the **Dev Cropper Creative Writer's Workshop** for the 2nd year
- 147 young pannists graduated from the **Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme** - marking its 31st year



# - Power To Make A Difference - 2016 -

## The Power to Succeed

- 15th year of sponsorship of the Republic Bank Caribbean Junior Golf Open in April
- Inaugural Sea to Sea Marathon sponsored by RBL in Tobago, supporting the promotion of sport tourism in the sister isle
- The Annual Republic Bank RightStart National Youth Football League marked its 21st anniversary



## Recognition of Staff Initiatives & Branch Community Projects:

- Eilerslie - Paramin Market Day
- Siparia - Infrastructural Improvements to the Diatonic Pan Institute
- Chaguanas - New library at Chaguanas RC
- De-clutter Drive - three successful drives held



# FULLY REAL



## ANDREW LEWIS TALKS

**ANDREW LEWIS** **Age:** 27 **Born in:** Carenage, Trinidad. Olympic Sailor, Motivational Speaker, Power To Make a Difference Brand Ambassador. **All in the family:** Andrew's love of sailing began in childhood, partly influenced by his father who was an avid recreational sailor and spurred on by his love of the ocean. As young as 13, Andrew knew that he wanted to compete at the highest level of the sport. **Uncharted Territory:** Because sailing is a sport with limited exposure in T&T, Andrew had to chart his own roadmap to the Olympics. "I had to create all the visions, all the plans, as there was no pathway for me to follow as an aspiring Olympian at that time. I always knew once I qualified for the Olympics my world would change and all the dreams would one by one come true." **Riding the waves:** Failing to qualify for the Beijing Olympics was a major disappointment for Andrew, even leading him to quit the sport for about a year. He gave it another shot in 2009 and qualified for the London Olympics. The rest is history. **On Mentoring:** Andrew attributes much of his success in life to seeking out and connecting with mentors. Once he began coaching, he realised how much he also enjoyed motivating others, and wanted to continue along that path. His partnership with RBL has helped him realise his vision of spreading messages of positivity to young people: "Since partnering with RBL I realised that all they want to do is give others an opportunity in life that they did not know was possible or that they didn't even know existed. This is what the world needs more of and I am so happy we connected the way we have. RBL has given me an avenue to reach out to so much more youths to continue my mentoring."

## - Power To Make a Difference-

### PMAD Approaches its 15th year TT\$22 million for 34 Organisations

In December, 34 NGO's and Community Based Organisations in Trinidad and Tobago received TT\$22 million from RBL through our Power To Make a Difference Programme. The funds will support initiatives that assist the differently abled; poverty alleviation; literacy and the development of young people. This year's group of beneficiaries represented a mix of both existing partnerships and new relationships.



You have embraced the truth  
that there is good  
and beauty in our nation.  
And you have shared it with as many people  
and as often as you can.



**Nigel Baptiste**  
Managing Director

### Feature Remarks by Nigel Baptiste, Managing Director, at the Launch of the 2017 Power To Make a Difference Programme (Abridged)

It is difficult to find the right words to share with a group of leaders who have in a variety of ways, and across a diversity of communities, worked tirelessly to change our nation's social narrative; working in the trenches to level the charge for real, sustainable social change. And in spite of all of that effort, to sometimes wake up in the morning and ask if it has all been worth it. If it continues to be worth it.

At Republic Bank, we wake up every morning convinced that the work that you do and the work that we do to support you are worth it. We wake up every morning resolved that whatever the economic circumstances of the region around us, the work that you do is worth it. In fact, the work that you do is more necessary now than ever before. I don't have a crystal ball but as I look out into the next five years, I can give you the assurance that Republic Bank will not be cutting back on our commitment to making a difference through your efforts.

As visionaries, you continue to strive day in and day out. In some cases, you struggle. If anything, my greatest hope in speaking this evening is that I could find the words that would add some momentum to your pursuits, to let you know that Republic Bank is a committed resource, partner, and friend. So maybe I can just say it outright – Republic Bank is a committed resource, partner and friend.

If ever the work that you are doing needed financial support, it is now. Being involved with an NGO myself, I am bemused and somewhat disappointed that one of the first line items in many people's budgets to be reduced or cut is the charitable work being done. I am bemused because I don't understand how so many of my business colleagues cannot see the direct relationship between maintaining that work and the survival of the economies within which they operate. The very economies upon which they depend for survival, let alone success.

I am not here though to diminish the opinions and choices made by others. I am here to let you know that Republic Bank is different. We are not better. We are different. We start by asking the question of what is needed. Then we try to identify the best way in which to make that happen. For all of you gathered here today and others who could not attend, we firmly believe that you are the best way in which to make what is needed happen. That being said, I must continue where most usually end. And that is by saying, "Thank you."

Thank you for advancing the rights of the differently able and the elderly. Thank you for giving homes to those in need. Thank you for stepping up to help provide a safety net and sanctuary for those on the fringe. Thank you for giving assistance and guidance to those suffering and in need. Thank you for putting books in the hands of the young, a spark to learn in their minds, and a sense of wonderment in their eyes. Thank you for providing an opportunity for the young and the old to better themselves through the power of reading.

Thank you, especially, for opening our eyes to many of the present realities of this world and for reaching out to us as your partners to help reshape and rebuild it. The journey to this point has been unforgettable.

For my part, I stand before you today as a man of two hats – on the one hand, I stand before you as the head of one of the most socially responsible corporate organisations in the history of our nation. In my time here, I have seen the Power to Make A Difference grow from strength to strength. I have seen how many in our society have benefited from the acts of a few. I have seen the power that comes from people working together, united by a cause, and guided by one single belief, to help those less fortunate.

## - Power To Make a Difference-

However, on the other hand, just like each of you, I am a person with dreams and hopes that we will turn it all around. That we need to and can work it out.

Just like you, I am someone who truly believes in doing what is necessary and even then, doing more. But I'm going to say something that most everyone in this room already knows about doing that – it is incredibly hard.

Power to Make A Difference is a journey. It is one we take with you, strengthening bonds at every step, as we work toward building a more successful society, not just for our sake, but for the sake of our children, and their children. It is why we tend to be in this for the long run.

So, the short answer always, to whether it is worth it is Yes. Yes it is. As long as one person benefits from the work done, it is worth it. That one person touches many more lives than we might ever be able to count.

Working together we have achieved much. As we continue to work together, we believe that we can achieve more.

Regardless of the length and history of our alliances, the truth remains that we are all, each and every one of us here, and out there, fighting battles. Some of these battles are visible, while most are unseen. But what truly defines us is not whether we win or lose, although a win is always a good thing. Rather, we believe that it is how hard we fight that matters most. It matters THAT we are willing to fight.

It matters that we are not blinded by our personal hang-ups about helping others and that our hearts are not made cold by what we see going on. If it is true that the main reason we fall is so that we can pick ourselves back up then once we keep moving, we will never be defeated.

Yes, our nation has many troubling and vexing issues.

And while it would be easy to stand here and share with you the pressing need to keep addressing these issues adequately, quite frankly, that would be a waste of time – it would be a waste of all our time because we already know this. And in many cases, we live it every day.

I know that every person here is concerned with finding solutions. We all already know the problems, but where are the solutions? There may be no cookie-cutter approach to social woes, but the key to starting and completing any journey through life is having the right attitude. It is having a deep-seated belief to continue doing right by each other. It is having the courage to speak out and to act out. It is about strengthening bonds with old allies and making new ones in the journey of life and the fight for a brighter tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the Power to Make A Difference – the belief that we can continue to work together to help those less fortunate.

With your help and support, we intend to continue that into 2017 and beyond.

Whenever we launch this Programme, we give ourselves a challenge – a challenge to be positive examples for others.

You understand the truth most of all. You understand the price that comes with being our brothers' and sisters' keepers. You do not compromise your values and integrity. You do not shrug your shoulders; instead you put them to the wheels to move our society forward. You have embraced the truth that there is good and beauty in our nation, and you have shared it with as many people and as often as you can.

We are honoured to be your partners in this great journey, and we are especially honoured that you have chosen us. Most of all, ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to that fateful day when the good that we strive to do inspires every man, woman, and child in this nation to help someone less fortunate.

Until and beyond that day, let's all keep moving forward – with or without a few steps backward.

# - Power To Make a Difference-

## Power to Make a Difference Programmes 2017



**Adult Literacy Tutors Association**  
Development of Online Learning portal for adults and Reading Circles for adults



**Autistic Society of Trinidad & Tobago**  
Sponsorship of therapy sessions



**Culture House**  
Environmental Project A.W.A.R.E. (A Wonderful & Rare Earth)



**Deloitte & Touche**  
The Safe School Pilot Project. A multi-phased project, the programme seeks to holistically address the issues such as crime, truancy and illiteracy, among other areas, in our nation's schools.



**Emancipation Support Committee**  
National African History Quiz for Secondary Schools & Spoken Word Competition for Primary Schools



**Habitat for Humanity Trinidad & Tobago**  
Construction & Repairs of homes across the nation



**Helen Bhagwansingh Diabetes Education Prevention Institute (DERPI)**  
Implementation of a diabetes awareness programme in secondary schools



**Heroes Foundation**  
Sponsorship of the youth mentorship programme



**Horses Helping Humans**  
Sponsorship of hippotherapy sessions to two autistic children



**In Full Flight!**  
Motivational Programme conducted across secondary schools



**Loveuntil Foundation**  
Sponsorship of the Schools Based Programme for students of Laventille & Environs



**National Carnival Bands Association**  
Mas Academy Youth Outreach Programme in primary schools



**National Carnival Commission of Trinidad & Tobago**  
Sponsorship of the annual Junior Parade of the Bands



**Presentation College San Fernando**  
Purchase of School Bus

# - Power To Make a Difference-



**Republic Bank Exodus**  
Annual sponsorship of Republic Bank Exodus



**The Butler Institute of Learning & Labour**  
Provision of after school literacy classes for Standards 4 & 5 students



**Republic Bank Laventille Netball League**  
Support of Laventille Netball League



**The Cropper Foundation**  
Support of the Dev Cropper Teen Writers' Residential Workshop



**Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha**  
Hosting of the Chowtaal & Baal Vikaas Festival in Hindu Primary schools



**The Love Movement Limited**  
Republic Bank Love Movement Youth Outreach Programme. Sponsorship of the Youth Outreach programme for marginalised children



**Sea to Sea Events Ltd.**  
(our friends from Tobago!)  
Sponsorship of the Tobago International Sea to Sea Marathon



**Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society**  
Annual October Cancer awareness month activities. Provision of a new Republic Bank branded cancer mobile



**St. Ann's Cascade Motivational Programme**  
Assessment for SEA students scoring less than 30% for reintegration into mainstream schooling or vocational studies



**Trinidad & Tobago National Commission for UNESCO**  
Leading for Literacy Now! Phase III (3rd batch of 40 primary schools)



**The Andrew Lewis Sailing School**  
Support towards construction of a Sailing School facility on Vessigny Beach

## Other 2017 Programmes

**Caribbean Golf Championships**

**Marlins Swim Club**

**Royhil Seals Waterpolo**

**Sick Kids Foundation-Sickle Cell Disease Partner**

**T&T Jnr. Golf Open**

**The Cotton Tree Foundation**

**The University of the West Indies**

**Tobago Jnr Golf Clinics (Jane Young)**

**Transplant Links**

**Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)**

Support of National Golf Team

Sponsorship of International Swim Meet (December 2016)

Sponsorship of National Championships

Sponsorship of Caribbean wide research and policy implantation for sickle cell relief

Support of Junior Golf Clinics in Trinidad

Provision of after school studies for remedial students

St. Augustine Campus - North Campus Project – Construction of the DCFA campus

Sponsorship of programme

Provision of paediatric kidney transplants

Support towards reading sessions for underprivileged children in Port of Spain

- Power to Care -



## Support continues for Cancer Awareness

September, 2016, marked 15 years of partnership with the TT Cancer Society. Various activities were held during the month to raise awareness for the disease, including the annual Walk For Life walk-a-thons, sales of ribbons and shirts, mobile cancer screening throughout the country, candlelight vigil and the youth targeted programme – Edu-Fest.



“ We want to make getting tested and early detection a mantra; education, a way to succeed; community, a foundation of support; and advocacy a way of life and living. ”

Derwin Howell  
Executive Director

30-50%  
of cancers can be prevented

- Don't smoke – tobacco is the single largest preventable cause of cancer in the world
- Don't go in the sun without UV protection – there are over 2 million cases of skin cancer diagnosed world wide every year
- Vaccinating against HPV and Hepatitis B viruses prevent cervical and liver cancer respectively
- Cancers of major public health relevance such as breast, prostate, cervical and colorectal cancer can be cured if detected early and treated adequately.

Source: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



## - Power to Care -

### The Love Movement Spreads Christmas Joy

The voices of the Love Movement choirs once again filled the night skies to bring Christmas joy to crowds across both Trinidad and Tobago last November and December.



**Singing Sweetly:**

All eyes were on him as this little lad gave the audience more than they had bargained for with his beautiful voice.



**Bringing Greetings:**

Republic Bank's Executive Director, Jaqueline Quamina, delivers the welcome remarks.



**Silent Night, Holy Night:**

Members of the Love Movement Youth Outreach Choir belt out some of their favourite Christmas carols at the concert.



**Enjoying the show:**

Republic Bank's Chairman, Ronald Harford and his wife, Allison, join the hundreds to witness the sights and sounds of the Republic Bank Love Movement Choirs.

### De-Clutter Drive – Christmas Style

Following the success of our first De-Clutter drive, the Christmas season offered another great opportunity for staff to clear out and give back. Our second De-Clutter Drive took place in December at the Sports Club and Gulf View branch and was a resounding success with hundreds of staff members donating items to the cause.



- Power to Help -

## RBL sponsors Selris James Art Show

If you haven't heard the name Selris James, his story is certainly worth getting to know (see biography below). Our relationship with this truly gifted and inspirational artist began in 2015 when we assisted in funding his much-needed eye surgery. Without hesitation, we lent support to Mr. James again in 2016 by sponsoring his first local art show at the 101 Art Gallery in December, which was a tremendous success.



Selris is not only a part of the Republic Bank Power to Make a Difference story, he is an inspiration – one who, through his willingness to pursue his talent, despite his disability, has shown us all that the drive to achieve one's dream is stronger than any challenge one is given in life.



### Selris James - Biography

Born in 1974, Selris James was diagnosed as blind and profoundly deaf by the age of two. At three years old, cataract surgery allowed him limited vision. By age six, the artistically gifted Selris was enrolled at the Immortelle Children's Centre where he learned basic academic and computer skills but was unable to gain full employment as an adult due to his worsening vision. In 2015, through the fundraising efforts of his teacher Professor Beth Harris, Selris underwent a successful cataract operation in Miami which restored sight in both eyes. With his vision restored, he began a prolific phase of painting and produced a successful art show in the US. Following the success of this show, Selris continued to produce art, in spite of limited resources, and mounted his first local exhibition, last December, sponsored by RBL.

